

REMARKS

The last Office Action in the parent application has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 16, 17, 21-24 and 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of the patent to Ogawa in view of the patent to Numaya.

At the same time the Examiner indicated that claims 18-20, 25 and 33 are not rejected over the art.

In view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of some claims, claims 18, 25 and 32 have been canceled and replaced with three new independent claims 33, 34 and 35, and these claims should be considered as being in allowable condition. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to depend on claim 34 and they also should be considered as being in allowable condition because of their dependency on claim 33.

In connection with the Examiner's rejection of claims 22 and 24 for formal reasons, applicants have amended these claims. It is believed that the grounds for the formal rejections are therefore eliminated.

Turning now to the Examiner's rejection of the claims over the art, it is noted that the Examiner applied two new references which were not applied before the Final Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the patent to Ogawa can not be considered as a valid reference since its U.S. filing date is later than the priority date of the present application.

The Examiner correctly indicated that the patent to Ogawa does not disclose a leadthrough opening for the printed circuit board and therefore it does not disclose that the rotor shaft is surrounded by the printed circuit board. Moreover, a support for receiving the shaft is provided on the printed circuit board. In addition, the reference does not disclose any hint or suggestion that a dial 50 is arranged on a front side of the printed circuit board 30. To the contrary, the dial is arranged remote from the printed circuit board 30 on a light conductor 40.

The patent to Numaya also does not teach this feature of the present invention, since in this reference the printed circuit board 50 is located at a distance from the dial 31.

In contrast, in accordance with the present invention the printed circuit board is provided with a dial which is arranged on the front side of the printed circuit board, as defined in claim 16. This is clearly shown in Figures 1 and 2 and also disclosed in the specification on page 7, paragraph 3.

It is respectfully submitted that the new features of present invention which are defined in claim 16 are not disclosed in the references and can not be derived from them as a matter of obviousness either taken singly or in combination with one another.

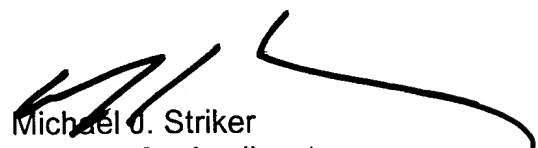
Claim 16 should also be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

As for the retained dependent claims, these claims depend on claim 16, they share its presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims should be allowed as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Any costs involved should be charged to the deposit account of the undersigned (No. 19-4675). Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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Amend the following claims:

16. A shaft drive device for a pointer of a gauge instrument, comprising a printed circuit board [with a dial]; a dial arranged on a front side of said printed circuit board ; a rotor device with a rotor and a rotor shaft attached to said rotor[, wherein said dial is]; a pointer arranged on said rotor shaft; a stator device for driving said rotor with said rotor shaft; an attachment device for attaching said rotor device and said stator device to said printed circuit board device in such a way that said printed circuit board device forms a part of a frame surrounding said rotor shaft.

19. A shaft drive device as defined in claim [18] 33, wherein said axial bearing bush is formed of one piece with said printed circuit board device.

20. A shaft drive as defined in claim [18] 33, wherein said axial bearing bush is formed as an insert receivable in said printed circuit board device.

22. A shaft drive device as defined in claim 17, wherein said rotor device is attachable to said printed circuit board device about an entire

periphery of said leadthrough opening for said rotor shaft in said printed circuit board device.

24. A shaft drive device as defined claim 23, wherein said attachment device has a lid [is] formed so that it axially supports said rotor shaft on an opposite side of said printed circuit board device.

26. A shaft drive device as defined in claim [25] 34, wherein said lid is locked in said printed circuit board device.